

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: Stardust Inn Inventory Number: CH-619
Address: 2755 Crain Highway City: Waldorf Zip Code: 20601-2808
County: Charles USGS Topographic Map: Piscataway, MD Quad
Owner: Bear, Stanely & Arlene Et Al Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes
Tax Parcel Number: 228 Tax Map Number: 8 Tax Account ID Number: 059465
Project: Waldorf Industrial Park Em. Tower Site - Chas.Co. Govt. Agency: FCC
Site visit by MHT Staff: ☐ no ☐ yes Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property located within a historic district? ☐ yes ☒ no

If the property is within a district

District Inventory Number: _____

NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☐ yes District Name: _____

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☐ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☐ yes ☒ no

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Stardust Inn is located on the west side of Crain Highway (Route 301) in the vicinity of the town of Waldorf, MD. The Inn, constructed in the early 1960's, originally was a complex of three (3) structures, including motel rooms, an office, and a large lounge building. While the MIHP form cites and describes these structures well, and suggests a significance in terms of the site's role in Waldorf's social fabric, their construction date in the last half of the century makes it difficult to recommend eligibility. Additionally, the complex is not architecturally intact, the Lounge building (relating most to any significance for "entertainment/recreation" justification) was demolished in 1999. The Stardust Inn has no known architect of record. Finally, the buildings that do remain are in generally poor condition. These buildings now serve as private rental apartments and numerous modifications have been undertaken over the years. It is recommended this site is not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Prepared by: Kate Mahood,
Architectural Historian

Date Prepared: July 8, 2003

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None
Comments: _____

[Signature]
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

[Signature]
Reviewer, NR Program

7/17/03
Date

7/21/03
Date

CH-619

Click here for a plain text ADA compliant screen.



Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
CHARLES COUNTY
Real Property Data Search

[Go Back](#)
[View Map](#)
[New Search](#)

Account Identifier: District - 06 Account Number - 059465

Owner Information

Owner Name: BEAR, STANLEY & ARLENE ET AL Use: APARTMENTS
Principal Residence: NO
Mailing Address: 2755 CRAIN HWY Deed Reference: 1) / 3531/ 36
WALDORF MD 20601-2808 2)

Location & Structure Information

Premises Address Zoning Legal Description
2755 CRAIN HWY CC 2.76 AC
WALDORF 20601 ON RT 301-STAR DUST MOTEL

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No:
8	16	228						80	Plat Ref:

Special Tax Areas Town
Ad Valorem
Tax Class

Primary Structure Built	Enclosed Area	Property Land Area	County Use
1960	26,234 SF	2.76 AC	

Stories	Basement	Type	Exterior

Value Information

	Base Value	Value As Of 01/01/2001	Phase-In Assessments As Of 07/01/2002	As Of 07/01/2003
Land:	895,590	895,500		
Improvements:	104,780	233,700		
Total:	1,000,370	1,129,200	1,086,256	1,129,200
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	0

Transfer Information

Seller: BEAR, STANLEY & JOSEPH GREENSTONE	Date: 04/11/2002	Price: \$0
Type: NOT ARMS-LENGTH	Deed1: / 3531/ 36	Deed2:
Seller: THREE-O-ONE MOTEL, INC	Date: 12/23/1986	Price: \$0
Type: NOT ARMS-LENGTH	Deed1: / 1177/ 344	Deed2:
Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:

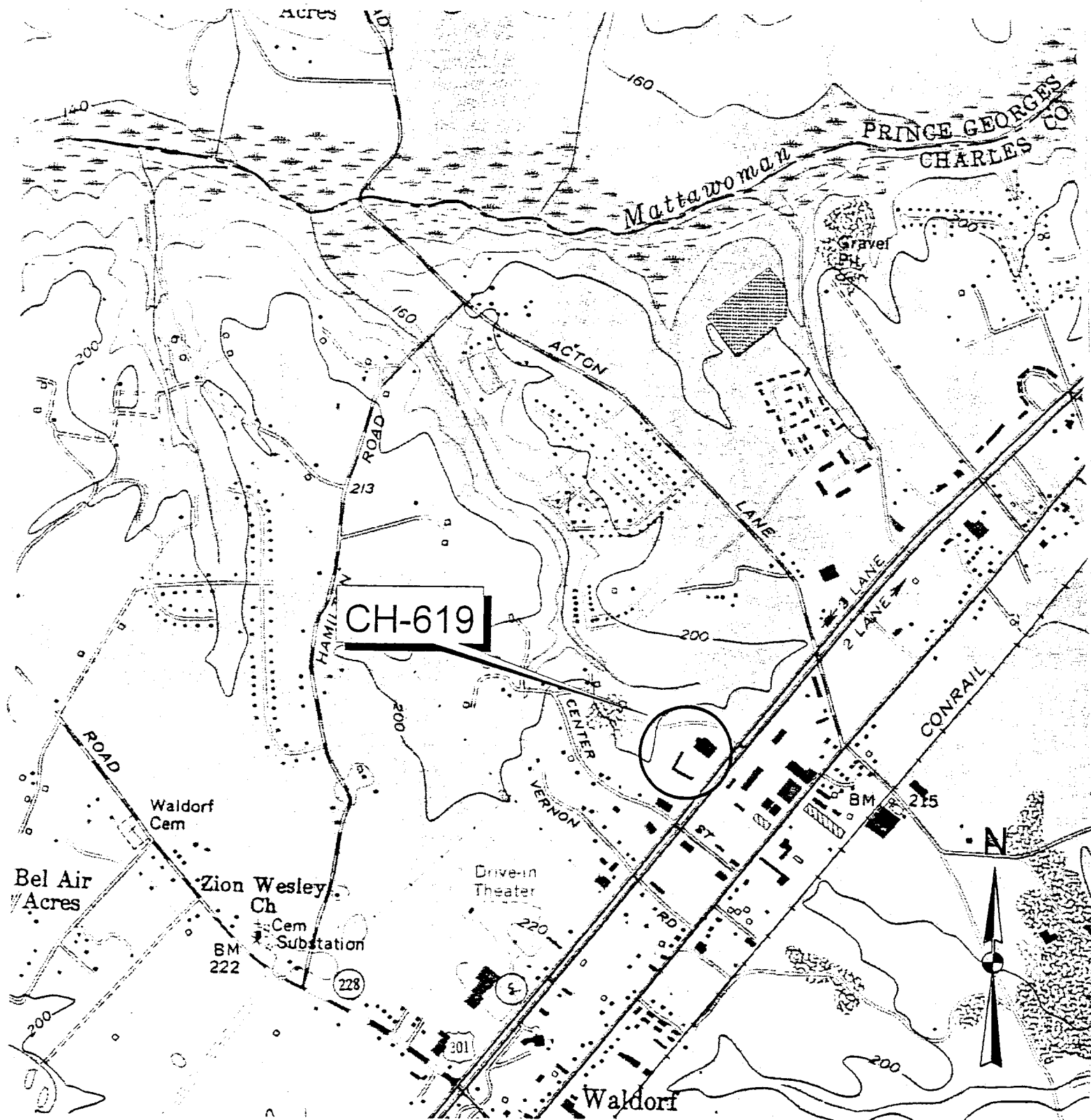
Exemption Information

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2002	07/01/2003
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

Tax Exempt: NO
Exempt Class:

Special Tax Recapture:

* NONE *



MAHOOD AND ASSOCIATES, LLC ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY ♦ HISTORIC PRESERVATION ♦ ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

510 PAFEL ROAD, ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
 410-266-5608 (P) 410-266-5570 (F)
 KATE@MAHOODASSOCIATES.COM

CH-619
 STARDUST INN

Scale
 N.T.S.

Date
 7/8/03

Design By

Source
 USGS BRANDYWINE LA PLATA,
 HUGHESVILLE, & PISCATAWAY QUADRANT

Job No. —



STARDUST INN
WALDORF, MD
CHAS. COUNTY

CH-619

KATE MAHOOD
05-30-2003

MD SHPO

View of signage and Motel Office section
looking west

Photograph #1 of 4



STARDUST INN
WALDORF, MD
CHAS. COUNTY

CH-619

KATE MAHOOD
05-30-2003

MD SHPO
View of Rear South Facade
Photograph # 2 of 4



STAR DUST INN
WALDORF, MD
CHAS. COUNTY

CH-619

KATE MAHOOD
05-30-2003

MD SHPO
View of Front North Facade
Photograph # 3 of 4



STARDUST INN
WALDORF, MD
CHAS. COUNTY

KATE MAHOOD
05-30-2003

CH-619

MD SHPO
View of portion of Rear East Facade
Photograph # 4 of 4

Stardust Inn
CH-619
Waldorf
Public

Circa 1960

The Stardust Inn is a good example of Charles County's roadside architecture of the mid-twentieth century. The site, surveyed just prior to its partial demolition, originally consisted of three separate but inter-related structures located on the west side of Rt. 301 or Crain Highway. The northernmost portion of the property included the now demolished large, low rectangular brick building which served as the lounge. The surviving portion of the complex includes the motel, in the form of an open L with an octagonal office situated near the road. One of the most distinguishing features of the site is the "Stardust Motel" roadside sign found near the office and adjacent to Crain Highway.

The Stardust Inn is significant in its association with the short-lived slot machine era in Southern Maryland and the early development of the US 301 corridor. The complex, now partly demolished, was one of a declining number of similar, relatively unaltered structures that have their origins in the exuberance of post World War II commercial architecture and the unique legalized gambling culture in the southern Maryland counties.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-619

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Stardust Inn

other

2. Location

street and number	2755 Crain Highway	not for publication
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city, town	Waldorf	vicinity
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county	Charles
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3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Joseph Greenstone and Stanley Bear
------	------------------------------------

street and number	unknown	telephone	unknown
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city, town	unknown	state	MD	zip code	unknown
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4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 8-227/228

city, town	LaPlata, MD	liber	1177	folio	344
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5. Primary Location of Additional Data

Contributing Resource in National Register District

Contributing Resource in Local Historic District

Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register

Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register

Recorded by HABS/HAER

Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT

Other:

6. Classification

[illegible]

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-619

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Stardust Inn was built in the early 1960's and is a good example of Charles County's roadside architecture which began to appear after the close of World War II. The site, surveyed just prior to the demolition of the lounge, originally consisted of three separate but inter-related structures located on a three acre parcel just west of Crain Highway in Waldorf. The northernmost portion of the property included the large rectangular brick building which served as the Lounge. The surviving portion of the complex includes the motel located to the south of the lounge site. This building is in the shape of an open L and includes an octagonal office and a classic roadside sign.

LOUNGE

The lounge, which was demolished in 1999, was a low and rambling, large one story brick building with buttressed sides. While the building has a hipped roof, this roofline was obscured at the façade with a false front panel. On top of the roof stood a large billboard resting on an east/west axis which included the name of the establishment and a space below for changing text. The façade or east elevation held the primary entrance and included a flat roof porch or piazza supported on metal posts. Formstone facing was used on the wall exterior. Later additions include a concrete block building which was added to the northern elevation near the façade.

MOTEL

South of the lounge is the motel consisting of two long narrow buildings aligned in a wide "L" shape with a swimming pool in the center. Both structures have a low side gable roof and a formstone kneewall extending the length of each wing. A single room unit includes a door next to large paired plate glass windows. Dividing the rooms is a decorative flush pilaster composed of pink, aqua, black and white small square tiles.

The octagonal building with a wide, flat projecting roof, houses the office. The sign stands nearby and includes the symbol of a star, below the text "Stardust" "MOTEL" on individual lines. "Stardust" appears on a panel that is angled on the sides, as is found on the office cornice and lounge façade. This wing is slightly more ornate than the rear building and includes tiny tile work and louvered doors.

The rear wing is two stories in height and includes a first and second story piazza or walkway which provides access to individual rooms. The balcony on the rear wing second floor includes a simple wrought iron railing and a metal stair. In line with the pilasters are decorative wrought iron posts. Supporting the piazza below are simple round metal posts. The varying heights of the two wings repeats the theme of angularity found in the lounge, office and sign.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-619

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	other:	

Specific dates	Circa 1960	Architect	unknown
Construction dates	1949-1968	Builder	unknown

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Stardust Inn is significant in its association with the short lived slot machine era in Southern Maryland and the early development of the U.S. 301 corridor. The complex, now partly demolished was one of a dwindling number of similar structures that have their origins in the exuberance of post World War II commercial architecture and the unique legalized gambling culture in the southern Maryland Counties.

Slot machines were legalized in 1949 and quickly appeared in all kinds of establishments, from pharmacies and Laundromats to restaurants and gas stations. While at first, buildings intended to serve other commercial services were adapted to accommodate slot machines, eventually special structures were built as gambling and entertainment houses.

The presence of legalized gambling, transportation improvements and post-war mobility combined to dramatically increase the volume of traffic passing through the area, and transformed Waldorf into a tourist destination. During the period of legalized gambling in Charles County, from 1949 to 1968, twenty-one motels were built along a fourteen mile stretch of U.S. 301 with an aggregate of 600 rooms. By the 1960s, numerous restaurants, hotels/motels, gas stations, and entertainment spots lined the highway. At the height of the gambling era revenue from slot machine licensing fees provided a full one-quarter of the county's income.

The Stardust Inn rests on slightly over three acres acquired in 1958 by P.H.W. Investment, Inc. from Gerald E. Topper, Samuel Gerson and Free State Investment Corporation. In 1961 Free State Investment Corporation sold to Three-O-One Motel, Inc. the same three acres who retained ownership until 1986. During its heyday Stardust included a dance floor with a circular bar and chandeliers, a bowling alley, billiard room and fine dining with a seating capacity of 325.

While there are several good surviving examples of post-war motels along the corridor including the Parkway Motel (CH-544), Lafayette Motel (CH-561), and BelAlton Motel (CH-566), the lounge, now demolished appears to have been a rather unique focal point for large-scale entertainment in the region.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-619

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 3 a.
Acreage of historical setting 3 a.
Quadrangle name Piscataway Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property at 2755 Crain Highway is associated with Charles County Property Map 8 Grid 16, Parcels 227 and 228.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Charles County Planning Dept.	date	11/20/2000
street and number	200 Baltimore Street	telephone	301-396-581
city or town	LaPlata	state MD	zipcode 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-619

Section 8 Page 1

Stardust Inn
name of property
Charles County, MD
county and state

Chain of title:

April 22, 1958	P.H.W. Investment, INC. Gerald E. Topper and Samuel Gerson to Free State Investment Corp. 3a. 133/323; 1 ½ a. and ½ a. 133/511; 46/58 a. 133/325. Liber 135 Folio 547
July 12, 1961	Free State Investment Corporation to Three-O-One Motel, Inc. piece or Parcel of land on the northwest side of US Rt. 301 from Waldorf to Washington. \$11,000 Liber 154 Folio 111
December 1986	Three-O-One Motel, Inc. to Stanley Bear and Joseph Greenstone. Liber 1177 Folio 344

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-619

Section 9 Page 1

Stardust Inn

name of property

Charles County, Maryland

county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History.
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

KCI Technologies, Inc. *Historic Contexts, Revised For the U.S. 301 Southern Corridor
Transportation Study*. December 1998.

Klaphor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland.
Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., LaPlata, MD. 1958.

KEESORCE SKETCH MAP
11/19/74



STAR DUST INN
2755 CRAIN HWY
CH - 619
CHARLES CO, MI
WALDORF

noted

night club

the gas
station
there

water's
prohibitive

sign

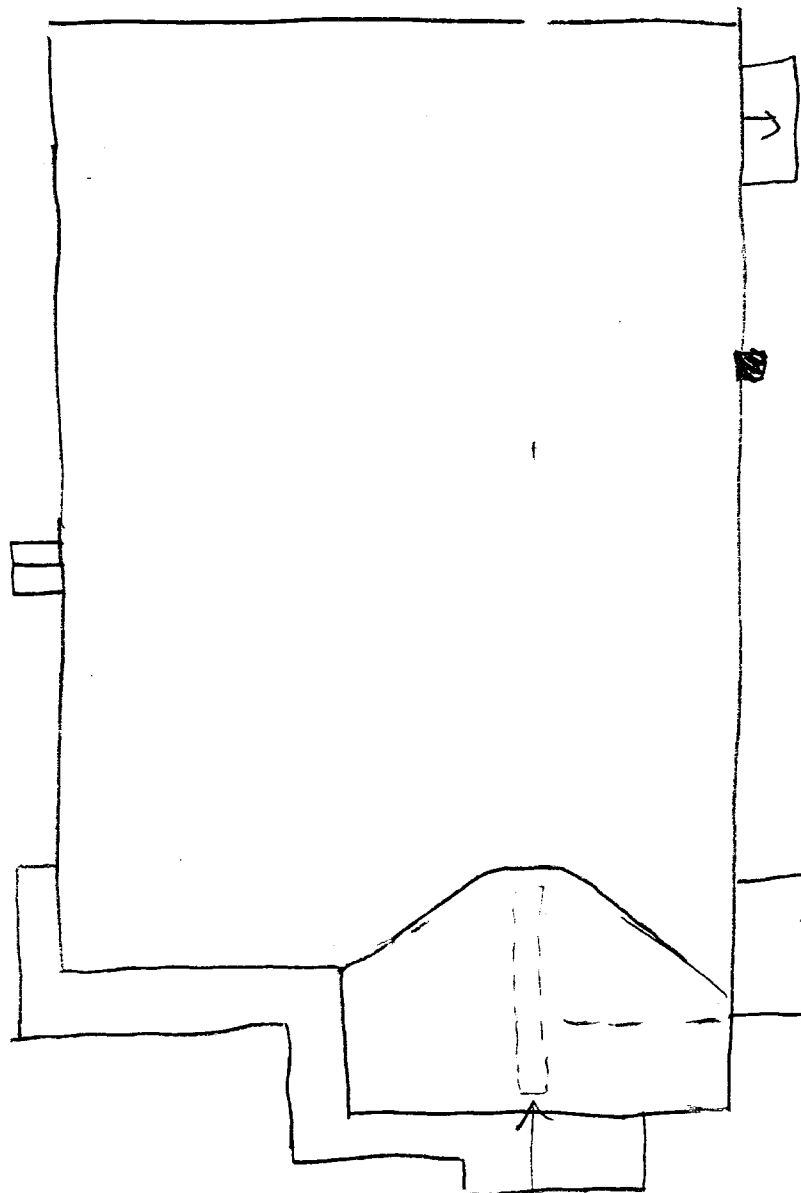
NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
11/19/77

STARBUCK INN
2755 CRAIN HWY
CH-619
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
WALDORF



asphalt
parking



concrete
block addn.

sign

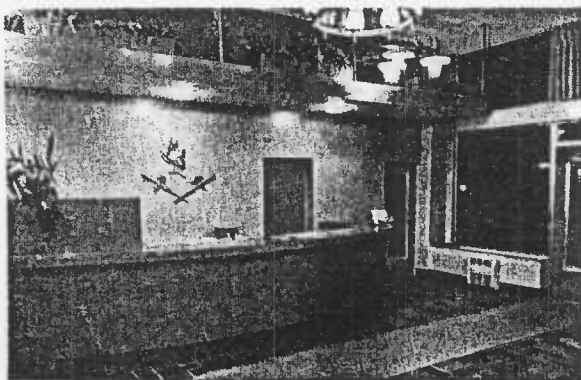
asphalt parking

Route 301

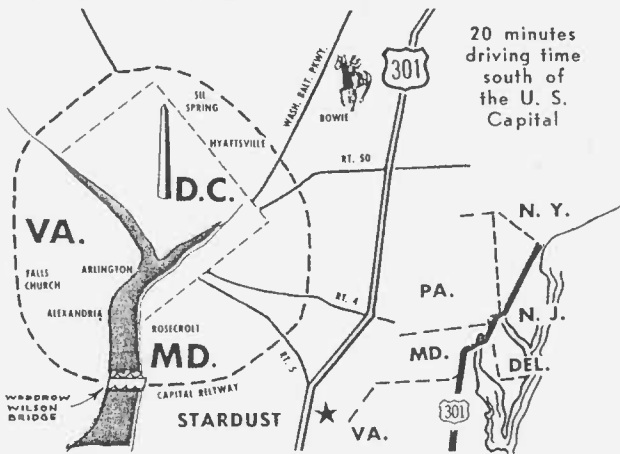
NOT DRAWN TO SCALE



Friendly sign to the traveler.



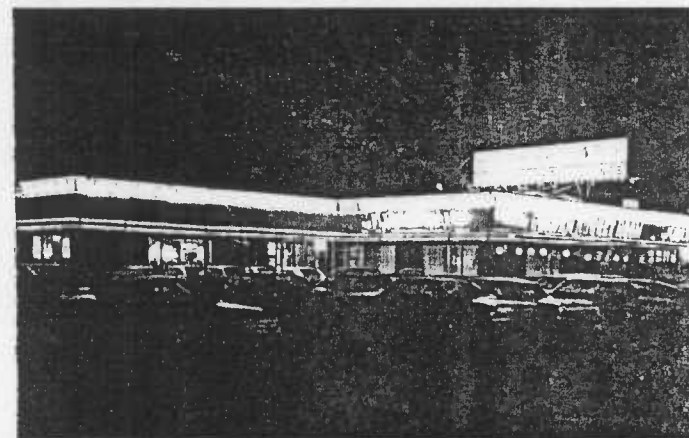
The reception at the Stardust is warm and courteous. Information is available on surrounding historical places of interest.



20 minutes driving time south of the U. S. Capital

CH-619

U. S. Highway 301
Waldorf, Maryland 20601



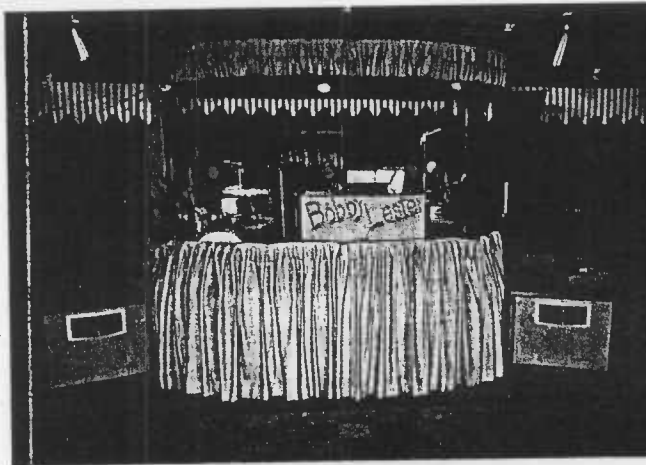
The traveler who seeks the finest entertainment under one roof selects the Stardust Inn.

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Stardust Lounge

Private parties and banquets are catered with that Stardust touch - seating capacity 325.

Where everyone has a good time and the meeting room of the famous VIP Club.

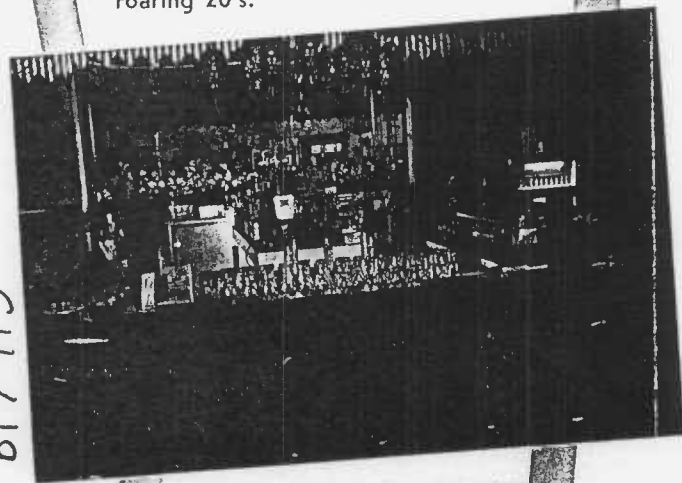


Dancing 7 days a week to live music.

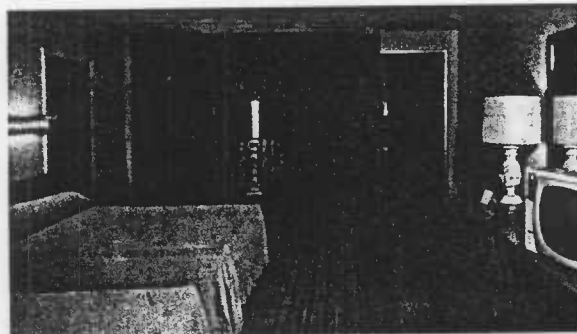


THE GOLDEN NUGGET ROOM

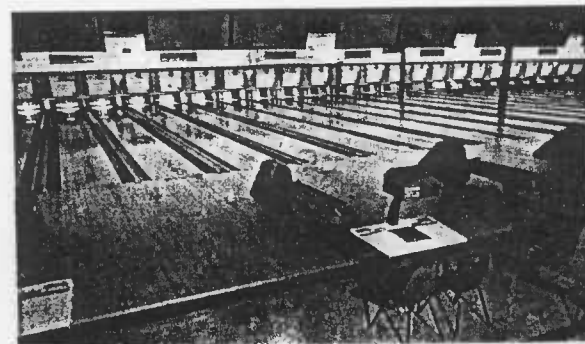
Reminiscent of the plush days of the roaring 20's.



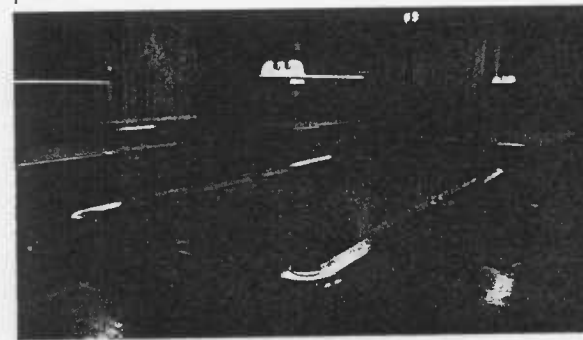
Delicious French and Italian cuisine is the trademark of the Stardust dining room - tastefully decorated for the traveler's pleasure - open 24 hours.



Every room of the Stardust is well appointed for rest and relaxation after a day's travel - TV and air-conditioned.

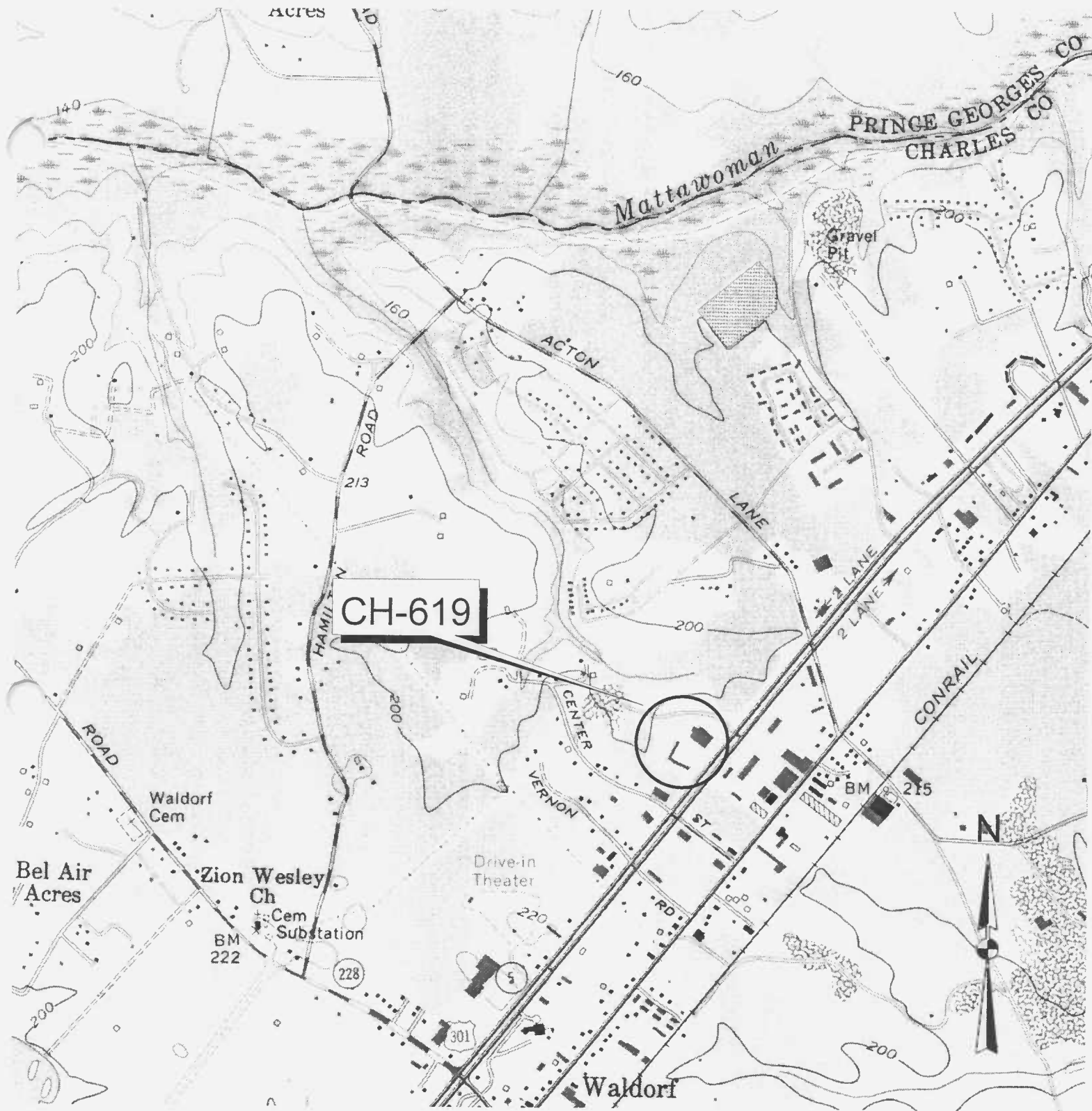


Bowling is a healthful sport and there is no finer recreational sport than the 24 Stardust lanes - tenpins and ducks.



The day's tensions can be relaxed with a friendly game of pocket billiards.

CH-619



Stardust Inn & Lounge
CH-619
Charles County, MD
Piscataway, MD Quad



CH-619

STARDUST INN

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

8/99

MARYLAND SHPO

NIGHTCLUB - LOOKING NW

1 OF 7



CH-619

STARDUST INN

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

8/99

MARYLAND SHPO

NIGHTCLUB - LOOKING SW

2 OF 7



CH-619
STARDUST INN
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
8/99
MARYLAND SHPO
NIGHTCLUB - NORTH ELEVATION
3 OF 7



CH-619

STARDUST INN

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

8/99

MARYLAND SHPO

MOTEL - LOOKING SW

4 OF 7



CH-619

STARDUST INN

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

8/99

MARYLAND SHPO

MOTEL - LOOKING WEST

5 OF 7

Stardust
MOTEL



CH-619

STARDUST INN

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

8/99

MARYLAND SHPO

MOTEL, SIGN & OFFICE - LOOKING SOUTH

6 OF 7



CH- 619

STARDUST INN

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

8/99

MARYLAND SHPO

MOTEL - DETAIL

7 OF 7